



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Louisiana Farm Reporter  
Volume 10 Number 23  
December 6, 2010



Cooperating with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture  
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### HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

October Livestock Slaughter  
U.S. & Delta States Farm Labor & Wage Rates  
Average Prices Received by Farmers

## Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

**Commercial red meat production** in Louisiana during October totaled 500,000 pounds, unchanged from September and the previous year.

There were 500 head of **cattle** slaughtered during October, unchanged from September but 100 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 730 pounds, down 19 pounds from the previous month but 25 pounds above October 2009. Total live weight, at 355,000 pounds, was ten percent below the previous month and previous year.

**Calves** slaughtered during October totaled 500 head, unchanged from the previous month but 100 head above the previous year. Live weight averaged 539 pounds, down nine pounds from September but 45 pounds above October 2009. Total live weight, at 274,000 pounds, was up seven percent from September and 24 percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during October totaled 900 head, unchanged from the previous month but 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 196 pounds, up five pounds from September and 12 pounds above the previous year. Total live weight was 168,000 pounds, down one percent from September and 18 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during October was 400 head, up 100 head from September and the previous year. Live weight averaged 63 pounds, down seven pounds from the previous month but three pounds above the previous year.

## United States Livestock Slaughter

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 4.3 billion pounds in October, down three percent from the 4.4 billion pounds produced in October 2009.

**October 2010** contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays. **October 2009** contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays.

**Beef production**, at 2.2 billion pounds, was two percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.9 million head, down one percent from October 2009. The average live weight was down 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,298 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 11.4 million pounds, seven percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 71,400 head, down 15 percent from October 2009. The average live weight was up 26 pounds from last year, at 275 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.0 billion pounds, down four percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.7 million head, down six percent from October 2009. The average live weight was up four pounds from the previous year, at 276 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 13.1 million pounds, was down eight percent from October 2009. Sheep slaughter totaled 202,300 head; eight percent below last year. The average live weight was 130 pounds; down one pound from October a year ago.

**January to October 2010 commercial red meat production** was 40.4 billion pounds, down two percent from 2009. Accumulated beef production was down slightly from last year; veal was down two percent; pork was down four percent from last year and lamb and mutton production was down four percent.

## Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	Sept	October		Jan. – Oct.		October		January – October	
	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Number, thousand head									
Cattle	0.5	0.6	0.5	6.2	4.5	2,886.1	2,865.9	27,983.4	28,470.8
Calves	0.5	0.4	0.5	3.6	4.5	83.5	71.4	770.8	728.1
Hogs	0.9	1.1	0.9	10.4	9.1	10,319.2	9,733.5	94,322.6	90,361.1
Sheep & Lambs	0.3	0.3	0.4	3.6	3.3	218.7	202.3	2,061.1	2,020.4
Total live weight, thousand pounds									
Cattle	396	395	355	4,488	3,483	3,772,940	3,705,877	36,044,718	36,166,168
Calves	255	221	274	1,829	2,431	20,564	19,239	191,786	187,908
Hogs	169	205	168	2,041	1,739	2,799,982	2,685,057	25,494,527	24,483,139
Sheep & Lambs	24	17	26	230	227	29,341	26,200	252,221	242,930
Average live weight, pounds									
Cattle	749	705	730	724	774	1,312	1,298	1,292	1,275
Calves	548	494	539	508	540	249	275	252	262
Hogs	191	184	196	196	191	272	276	271	271
Sheep & Lambs	70	60	63	64	69	131	130	136	133
Million pounds									
Red Meat	0.5	0.5	0.5	5.3	4.8	4,391.2	4,265.2	41,161.0	40,365.7

## Delta States Farm Labor

Farm labor estimates are made for the combined Delta States: Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Delta states had 33,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 2010, unchanged from October 11-17, 2009. Of the 33,000 hired workers, those that work 150 days or more per year accounted for 61 percent of the total, and workers that work 149 days or fewer accounted for the remaining 39 percent.

The average wage rate in the Delta states for all hired farm workers was \$9.07 per hour compared to \$9.50 per hour in October 2009. Delta states hired farm workers averaged \$2.06 per hour less than the average wage rate at the U.S. level. Livestock workers earned \$8.85 per hour compared to \$9.16 per hour a year earlier. Field workers were earning \$8.55 or 31 cents less this October than last October.

The average number of hours worked, at 43.4 hours per week, was 1.7 hours more per week than the current U.S. average of 41.7 hours per week.

## United States Farm Labor

There were 1,157,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 2010, up four percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 826,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 331,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.13 per hour during the October 2010 reference week, up 20 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.49 per hour, up 27 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.27 per hour compared with \$10.28 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.43 per hour, was up 19 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 41.7 for hired workers during the survey week, up seven percent from a year ago.

**Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States**

Item	Delta <sup>1</sup>			United States		
	October 2009	July 2010	October 2010	October 2009	July <sup>2</sup> 2010	October 2010
	-----Thousand Workers-----			-----Thousand Workers-----		
<b>Hired Workers (All)</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1,114</b>	<b>1,245</b>	<b>1,157</b>
<b>Ag Service Workers</b>	---	---	---	285	360	331
<b>Hired Farm Workers</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>826</b>
150 Days or More	26	18	20	605	627	588
149 Days or Less	7	11	13	224	258	238
	-----Per Week-----			-----Per Week-----		
<b>Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>41.7</b>
	-----Per Hour-----			-----Per Hour-----		
<b>Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	<b>\$9.50</b>	<b>\$9.34</b>	<b>\$9.07</b>	<b>\$10.93</b>	<b>\$10.79</b>	<b>\$11.13</b>
<b>By Type of Worker</b>						
Field	\$8.86	\$9.02	\$8.55	\$10.22	\$10.09	\$10.49
Livestock	\$9.16	\$8.96	\$8.85	\$10.28	\$10.15	\$10.27

<sup>1</sup> Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

<sup>2</sup> Revised

--- Data not published.

## November Farm Prices Received Index Up

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 159 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, increased four points from October. The Crop Index was up nine points and the Livestock Index increased one point. Producers received higher prices for soybeans, corn, lettuce and eggs and lower prices for hogs, milk, apples, and cucumbers. In addition to prices, the overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a three-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of milk, cotton, cattle and corn offset decreased marketings of soybeans, potatoes, peanuts and lettuce.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 23 points from November 2009. The Food Commodities Index, at 155, increased three points from last month and increased 19 points from November 2009.

## Prices Paid Index Up

The November Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates was 188 percent of the 1990-1992 average. The index was up two points from October and ten points above November 2009. Higher prices in November for complete feeds, nitrogen and supplements more than offset lower prices for other services, feeder pigs and hay & forages.

## Average Prices Received By Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	November 2009	October 2010	November 2010 <sup>1</sup>	November 2009	October 2010	November 2010 <sup>1</sup>
	----- Dollars -----			----- Dollars -----		
Soybeans, per bushel	9.60	10.80	11.80	9.53	10.20	11.20
Sorghum, per cwt	2/	2/	2/	5.67	7.80	8.34
Rice, per cwt	13.20	10.90	11.30	14.00	11.10	12.10
Upland Cotton, per pound	.642	.773	.838	.595	.781	.801 <sup>3</sup>
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	105.00	113.00	111.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt <sup>4</sup>	52.60	64.40	63.10	79.60	93.10	94.10
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	76.80	90.50	92.00	85.40	98.80	100.00
Cows, per cwt <sup>5</sup>	39.00	49.00	46.90	41.70	52.70	51.90
Calves, per cwt	89.30	100.00	102.00	104.00	120.00	122.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.410	.470	.470
Eggs, All, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.010	.813	1.130
Milk, All, per cwt <sup>6</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	15.40	18.50	17.90

<sup>1</sup> Mid-month.

<sup>2</sup> Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

<sup>3</sup> Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month

<sup>4</sup> "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

<sup>5</sup> Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

<sup>6</sup> Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = Not Available.

*The Louisiana Farm Reporter is published twice a month by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, USDA-NASS Louisiana Field Office 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, La 70806. Subscription is free to respondents and cooperators, \$10.00 annually to all others, and is available from the above address. Postmaster: send changes of address to Louisiana Farm Reporter, P. O. Box 65038, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038*

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